GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1264
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SABARIMALA .
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) The number of pilgrims visited Sabarimala during each of the last three years;

(b) The financial assistance provided by the Government for the development of Sabarimala during the said period; and

(c) The steps taken by Government to provide adequate facilities to the pilgrims visiting Sabarimala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a): Figures with regard to visits to the places of tourist interest/spots are maintained State-wise. The number of tourists who visited Kerala during the last three years is as under:

	Tourist arrivals	
Year	Domestic	International
2003	5871228	294621
2004	5972182	345546
2005	5946423	346499

(b) and (c): The Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for development of different tourist places on the basis of consultations with the States/UT Administrations concerned.

Project proposals received, complete in all respect, are appraised on inter-se-priority basis and funds released, subject to availability under the respective heads.

No project proposal for development of Sabarimala has been prioritised for grant of central financial assistance during the current financial year.

However, the Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned a sum of Rs.104.89 lakh during 1998-99 for construction of Pilgrim Facilitation Centre at Sabarimala. During the 10th Five Year Plan (till 2005-06) projects worth Rs.9278.92 lakh have been sanctioned for the State of Kerala.